

**KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION ON PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL  
LANDS UNSUITABLE FOR SURFACE MINING PETITION (LUM#00-2)  
FEBRUARY 22, 2001**

**WHEREAS**, on November 13, 2000, the Pine Mountain Settlement School filed with the Kentucky Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, a petition to declare 5,226 acres of land surrounding the historic school as unsuitable for all types of coal mining operations, and

**WHEREAS**, the Pine Mountain Settlement School, located in Harlan County, is a national historic landmark which provides a unique resident outdoor environmental education experience to over 3,000 school children each year, and has been a cultural and educational resource to the community for over 85 years, and

**WHEREAS**, a proposed mountaintop mining operation on the Cumberland Plateau to the north of the school property could disrupt the mission, the historical setting, and the viability of the Pine Mountain Settlement School as a National Historic Landmark and outdoor education center, and

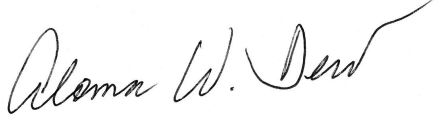
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of Pine Mountain Settlement School have filed a Lands Unsuitable for Surface Mining petition alleging that surface coal mining operations will affect historic and fragile lands and could result in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, aesthetic values, natural systems, and spring-recharge areas on Pine Mountain which serve as a water supply for the school, and

**WHEREAS**, EQC expresses its deep concern regarding the damage coal mining may inflict on the Pine Mountain Settlement School and its rich cultural, historical and natural heritage.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION**

1. That Pine Mountain Settlement School has been a truly important Kentucky institution for thousands of students and community residents and others who have participated in its programs over many years.
2. A designation of unsuitable for mining was filed pursuant to KAR Chapter 24 and 405 KAR 24:030(8) in order to protect the long-term viability of the school, which has served as a cultural, educational, scientific, and historical resource for almost a century.
3. While EQC recognizes the importance of coal mining to the state and local economy, the commission also acknowledges the growing importance of protecting unique and special places like the Pine Mountain Settlement School. It is the commission's hope that Kentucky will work to preserve the integrity of the Pine Mountain Settlement School from coal mining.
4. That this resolution be forwarded to Governor Paul E. Patton and Secretary James E. Bickford for consideration.

*Approved this 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2001 by members present and voting.*



*Chair, Environmental Quality Commission*

***Environmental Quality Commission***

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